

COUNTY NEWS ITEMS

**ABSOLUTELY RELIABLE NEWS
GATHERED BY THE LIVE
WIRES OF THE CUR-
RENT.**

Shot Gun Gleanings From KNOWLES.

Dad Ellis the prominent Lovington cowman, was a most pleasant visitor in Knowles the first time this year, last week.

Cap Montgomery from the Lucas ranch near the cap-rock, was a caller in town the other day.

Walt Harbert was over from Lamesa last week, investing in desirable ranch supplies.

Frank Mabin the crack sheep man from the Lovington district, was a visitor in town the other day.

William Quinn the hustling stockman, from just across the line, was in to see us a few days ago.

J. L. Emerson, the new store man, returned from Carlsbad where he went on a matter of business the other day.

Tom Musick came in from the ranch west of us last week, taking items of his old home town.

Farmer Browning from near Hobbs, was a pleasant caller in town last week.

Earnest Eaves, the sheep-king, from the cap-rock, west of us, graced us with his presence a short while last week.

It is currently reported that Dock Townsend has ordered a new Buick six—we suppose this will hold him for a while.

W. D. Marshall, the jovial capitalist from Hobbs, was a most pleasant caller in town last Saturday.

Dub Andrews, the young scout, from the Andrews ranch, five miles north, was in town last week.

A. J. Heard went to Midland, Texas, last week, on a matter of business. He will return in a few days.

Tom Parker and Cap Eubanks, were over in this vicinity de-horning corn, and flanking maize last week on the Henry Teague place for Rom Holt.

W. H. Mimbler sold his calves to Col. Hardin last Friday the price reported is \$27.50.

Mr. Blackmon and son were here overhauling the phone lines last week.

Paul Ray, from the Opdyke ranch, south of us, was in Knowles after supplies last Saturday evening.

B. H. Turner made a trip to the Fuoss ranch last Saturday with his trailer and brought in 1500 pounds of merchandise off the Holloway wagon, which was left there—tire trouble.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Tomlinson, Sr., were in Knowles last Saturday, doing some fall trading.

L. T. Wells returned from Midland, Texas, last week, and reports the sand-hills to have all moved right into the middle of the road all the way.

L. T. left for Lamesa, last Sunday, for another load of merchandise. He says the road to the latter point is fine.

Rep. Sidebottom, of Noble Brothers' of Lubbock, Texas, was in town last week, soliciting business for his house.

Price Hamilton who is a working "ppo-thing" from north of town, was in Knowles last Saturday taking a day off—just vacating.

Nat Huston traded off his old Maxwell to a party near McDonald last week. Nat says he will buy a car the next time, he decides to invest.

Joe Cunningham and S. A. Sullivan were here in the interests of the Stockman's Guaranty Loan Company, of Albuquerque, last week.

Hart Brothers have been shaping up their store building for the winter, during the past week. No freeze out. C. L. Mitchell has been doing the carpenter work.

Charley Miller finished de-horning his cows last week. He says the flies are not worrying him now.

Mrs. C. G. Stiles and sons, have bought and stacked sufficient bundle stuff, at their ranch, north of town, to feed their entire herd, all winter.

The high wind prevailing last Wednesday wrecked a wind mill at the Shipp ranch.

The parents of Claud Stephenson, have been here visiting Claud and family. They are from Cancho county, Texas.

Dr. M. Miller, the noted surgeon from Lamesa, Texas, was in this vi-

cinity on a professional trip last week remaining several days.

County Superintendent W. A. Poore of Carlsbad, made an inspection trip of the Plains schools last week, and expresses himself as being well pleased with their progress.

Dad A. C. Heard and family were in town last Sunday, attending services at the Baptist church.

Claud Breckon moved a barn to the Emerson place for cow use during the cold weather, last week.

A party who claimed they were driving an automobile and put up their car at the local garage broke into the house and carried off their valued possessions—trouble, nearly.

F. A. Hamer, the magic medicine man from Lovington, was a professional caller in town last Monday.

W. S. Hollined, the Lovington merchant, was in Knowles this week, investigating local conditions.

W. J. Chance, the water witch, of the western district, was in town last Monday, attending to his business.

"Little breeches" was in Knowles last Tuesday showing the boys how to enjoy himself.

Leonus and Abraham Favelev passed through Knowles in the rain last Monday night, enroute to the ranch.

W. D. Bartlett one of Lovington's husky citizens, was a visitor in this community last Monday eve.

Teamster Leazer returned from the railroad last Monday, bringing in a big load of good goods.

Fred Winnett returned from Kansas City this week he having been in the matter city for several weeks, under the care of a surgeon, on account of an injured spine—feeling better.

B. Nally the farmer from north of town, was in Knowles this week, hitting himself for the winter.

Robert Shipp passed through town last Monday morning with a bunch of calves, which he purchased from Nat Camp—taking them down to the ranch on the line.

The report is that Lamesa is on a boom, eight big brick buildings to be used as stores, are under course of construction, one to be used as an opera-house is being completed—every one looking for a job being readily taken on.

Jim Griffith, alias "Rattle Snake Jim" who has been employed at Andrews' for the past several months, returned here to his home, last Monday.

Chas. Adams and Bob Musick came out from Carlsbad last Monday on an aggressive auto road campaign, and judging by the way they were going, after the boys, there remains no doubt about their success, in putting through the desired road, which will be a source of considerable satisfaction to many a shoofier.

C. A. Miller was summoned to Phoenix, Arizona, last Monday. His mother being reported very ill at that point. A. C. went as far as Midland in his car and thence by rail.

Little Henry Byers returned from Texas points last Monday and states he is glad to be at home which is a good place to be after all.

Quite a husky north wind last Sunday afternoon and at its conclusion after dark, began raining, which continued all the night, but since it was quite warm there was no bad effect.

Hageman, has the following to say about his mission in this life: "I expect to pass through this life but once, if, therefore, there is any kindness I can show, or any good I can do, to my fellow-being, let me do it now, let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again". Some moral to it, no?

Bert Ancell and family from his ranch across the Texas line, were in town last Sunday, attending church.

Miss Margie Hardin and brother, Rockwell, have been visiting their Uncle Frank Hardin and family for the past several weeks, and returned to their home in Amarillo last Thursday. Boone and Waggoner taking them as far as Lubbock in their Oak-

Services were conducted by the local pastor, at the Baptist church, last Friday, Saturday and Sunday with a varied attendance.

J. J. Todd returned from Lamesa, Texas, last Monday. He states he has sold eight bales of cotton, bringing him about 12 cents and the seed \$32. The crop gathered from twenty acres was nearly 12 bales and since he brought back a load from the rail-

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road every time it cost him almost nothing to market it. He calls it "velvet".

Winfred Knowles was up from Monument in his car last Sunday tracing trouble on the phone line, which has had them all up a tree for the longest.

The political situation seems to be shrouded in mystery. Look-a-like some one from the plains will be compelled to canvas the hills and hollows and inform our people as to real conditions.

A car load of some of our most prominent citizens went to Carlsbad last week. We note the Current says they came from Lovington. They on their part, to make the play real, returned home by way of Lovington. Love to please, is their name.

We, ourselves, claim to be some workers—yes, at it six days out of the week and some times seven, and then burn midnight oil, furnishing the papers "dope" which readers in other sections seem to appreciate. Just a little extra work for the benefit of our country and our friends.

The Germans seem to have a hard row to hoe, with the road to Paris irretrievably closed, the path to Calais barred, all routes to Petrograd shut air-tight—at the same time they seem to have gotten quite a slice of every country they have tackled. The Allies seem to possess lots of wind-jamming qualities, and never get nowhere, except running a blazer over us on this side of the pond, taking our ships and confiscating our merchandise at will, on the high seas, and—oh, well, perhaps they can make their bluff stick all time—who can tell?

We wonder if any one will ever make a practical survey of the road climbing the cap-rock? The real hill has never been touched and is much rougher than it was six years ago. Perhaps it, also, will receive due attention when the proper time comes, and then, of course, it will be appreciated.

Prospectors are getting to be quite numerous there being scarcely a day without some few of them showing up either in cars, hacks or wagons. All in search of something good, trying to better their condition. We have heard many expressions of general satisfaction of the outlook for this section of the country, many of them stating it to be their intention to close their holdings and return to their eastern New Mexico if not in this immediate vicinity. The reason they state is it seems much easier to "get-by" in this country, than they have been accustomed to.

MURDER AT SIERRA BLANCO.

H. L. Roberson Convicted and Sentenced to Twenty Years for Killing H. F. Boykin January 16, 1915.

Owing to the fact that many hereabouts were acquainted with Mr. Roberson, who was murdered last January at the stock pens in Sierra Blanco the following short summary of the case is given Roberson having been convicted by a jury in Judge Dan M. Jackson's court, of the thirty-fourth Texas district in El Paso last week.

The following is from the El Paso Times of last Sunday:

Roberson was tried and convicted by a jury on a charge of having shot to death "Foot" Boykin in the stock pens at Sierra Blanco. Roberson's defense was that Boykin lunged at him with a knife and he fired "because he was afraid for his life". The evidence showed that Roberson did not know Boykin, did not ever remember having seen him and did not know that it was Boykin that was killed until he afterward learned it from other sources.

The controversy, which is alleged to have played an important part in the tragedy, arose over the counting of cattle brought from the T. and O. ranch which were destined to be pastured on Boykin's ranch twenty-five miles from Sierra Blanco. The cattle were driven from the T. and O. ranch by Roberson, who placed them in the pens at Sierra Blanco on the night of January 15. It was the day following that Boykin was killed. Walter Sitters, who was working for Roberson and helped bring the cattle, was killed by the first shot that was fired by Roberson. According to the testimony that shot was fired over Roberson's shoulder when his horse wheeled. The death of Sitters was conceded to be accidental.

According to witnesses, Boykin was in the pens counting the cattle when Roberson rode up and asked him what he was doing. Boykin, the testimony was, replied that it was none of his business.

This Started Quarrel. The quarrel, which ended in the death of Boykin, then, according to witnesses, started. The testimony showed that Roberson was armed with a six shooter and carried a Winchester in a scabbard attached to his saddle. It was believed that Roberson with the exception of a pocket knife, was unarmed. Roberson testified that Boykin made a movement to his hip pocket and he believed that he was going after a gun.

In the prosecution of the case the firm of Lea, McGrady and Thompson

and the firm of Hudspeth and Dale, were employed to assist District Attorney W. W. Bridgers. Judge Thompson appeared for the former firm, although Mayor Lea assisted the state in the selection of the jury. Judge Dale appeared for the latter firm.

The defense was represented by Victor Moore, John L. Dyer and W. B. Ware.

The jurors who tried the case were: J. M. Dudley, foreman; G. G. Bakofsky, Henry Elion, Jack Taylor, H. Braem, A. J. Martin, Leo Schuster, W. J. Page, R. Rokahr, J. D. Osborn, E. O. Hughson and L. C. Miller.

A special venire of 100 men were summoned for the trial. Eighty-nine were served. Eleven were excused. Out of forty-six examined, ten jurors were secured. An additional twenty-five men were brought in from whose number one juror was selected. The last juror chosen, being Mr. Dudley, was selected from the last twelve men summoned.

It was last Monday when the selection of the jury started and Tuesday afternoon when it was completed. That same afternoon testimony was being taken. All testimony was in by Thursday afternoon. Friday afternoon the arguments commenced. Those were concluded Saturday afternoon when the case was given to the jury. Two hours later the jury reported that it had reached a verdict.

H. L. Roberson, aged 40 years, was convicted on a charge of murder resulting from the death of H. F. Boykin, familiarly known as "Foot" Boykin, and the jury assessed his punishment at 20 years in the state penitentiary. The case was given to the jury at 4:20 o'clock Saturday afternoon. It was 6:20 when it was announced that the jury had arrived at a verdict. Judge Dan M. Jackson and the attorneys in the case were notified by Deputy Sheriff J. B. Kilpatrick, who was in charge of the jury.

Judge R. E. Thomason, who assisted in the prosecution of the case, was first to arrive in the court room. Roberson came a few minutes later. He went directly to the hat rack on the west side of the Thirty-fourth district court room and hung up his large white hat—the same broad brimmed hat that is usually worn by stockmen. Turning from the hat rack, Roberson caught sight of Judge Thomason, the man who made perhaps the most vigorous speech to the jury against him.

"Good evening," said Roberson pleasantly in a low tone of voice said to be one of his chief characteristics.

"Good evening, Mr. Roberson," replied Judge Thomason with the same degree of pleasantness.

Roberson took a seat in the large arm chair resting against the railing. It was the same chair that he occupied during the time the arguments were being made in his case. Then the chair was next to the table which separated him from the jury box.

After seating himself Roberson picked up a paper and scanned its pages. Victor Moore, one of his attorneys, came into the court room and took the chair next to Roberson. Evidently Mr. Moore asked Roberson some question. The guess was that it had connection as to the character of the report that the jury had to make. Nothing was conveyed either in the face of Roberson or in the manner in which he replied to Mr. Moore. Mr. Moore moved his chair so that he could sit facing Roberson. Thus the two held conversation for some time.

Judge Jackson soon arrived in the court room and Deputy Kilpatrick brought down the jury.

It was nearly 7:05 o'clock Saturday night when the jury took seats in the jury box.

"Gentlemen, have you arrived at a verdict?" Judge Jackson asked.

"We have," replied J. M. Dudley, foreman.

"You will please hand it to the clerk," said Judge Jackson.

Mr. Dudley gave C. N. Phillips, chief deputy district clerk, several slips of folded yellow paper.

Mr. Phillips stood under the extension light at the end of Judge Jackson's bench. The yellow slip for the

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verdict of "not guilty" was on the top of the others. Mr. Phillips opened this but saw that it was not signed. The "verdict of guilty" slip was on the bottom of those handed him. The first glance showed that this was signed. Opening it, Mr. Phillips stood closer under the light so that he might see clearly. While Mr. Phillips read the verdict in a clear voice, he hesitated once. That was at the point after, "we, the jury, find." Here Mr. Phillips looked closer at the verdict. "Guilty," he then read distinctly.

When the verdict was announced and Judge Jackson asked, "gentlemen, is that your verdict," to which all of the jurors nodded in the affirmative. Roberson sat until action is taken on a motion for a new trial which in all probability will be filed.

HIGHWAY LEGISLATION TO BE STRONGLY URGED.

Santa Fe, Dec. 3.—United States Senator Albert B. Fall left today for Washington, D. C., to be on hand for the opening of congress. He has been at Three Rivers the past few weeks.

On the opening day of congress, southwestern congressmen will introduce a bill for the national construction of the Ocean to Ocean highway via Santa Fe and Albuquerque or the Old Trails route, the novel feature of which is to be a plan of national preparedness. One hundred thousand men are to be employed on the highway construction and they are to be given military training as part of their duties.

The road is to be part of a system of military transportation and is to cost \$200,000,000. The road is to run from Washington to Los Angeles and in time there are to be lateral and branch roads to every state in the union.

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